CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an intervertebral disc comprising:
independently advancing at least one optic fiber through an access device and into a nucleus of the disc ~~through an access device~~; and
viewing an interior of the disc using at least one of the optic fibers.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising advancing an access device into the disc to create a passageway into the disc with the access device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 where advancing the access device into the disc comprises separating layers of a fibrous outer portion of the disc to create a passageway into the disc with the access device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising;
advancing a treatment device through the access device; and
activating the treatment device to treat the disc.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein activating the treatment device occurs prior to viewing the interior of the disc.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said advancing of the at least one optic fiber and viewing the interior of the disc are performed intermittently throughout said method.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein advancing the access device comprises inserting a needle into at least a fibrous outer portion of the disc.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the treatment device includes at least one active electrode and a return electrode, wherein activating the treatment device comprises applying a high frequency voltage between the active and return electrodes.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprises using a conductive medium to form a current path between the active and return electrodes.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, where the conductive medium is the naturally occurring fluid within the disc.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein advancing the treatment device comprises advancing the treatment device into a nucleus pulposus of the disc.

15. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein activating the treatment device comprises ablating tissue within the disc.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising observing the effect of the ablating of tissue using the optic fiber.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein observing the effect comprises measuring a void created by the ablating of tissue.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein observing the effect comprises observing an outer portion of the disc.

19. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein activating the treatment device comprises coagulating tissue within the disc.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising observing the effect of the coagulating of tissue using the optic fiber.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein observing the effect comprises measuring shrinkage of tissue resulting from the coagulating of tissue.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein observing the effect comprises observing an outer portion of the disc.

23. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising performing non-invasive imaging prior to or during activating the treatment device.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 1, where advancing the at least one optic fiber into the nucleus of the disc via the access device is performed during an open surgical procedure.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, where advancing the at least one optic fiber into the nucleus of the disc via the access device is performed during a percutaneous surgical procedure.